

# Claims

- [c1] A rule based computerized method of developing, implementing and administering legislation, the method including:–
- developing a computerized database containing a set of declarative rules in accordance with which the legislation can be developed, written in and delivered;
  - utilizing the computerized database to develop the policy for the legislation in accordance with the set of rules;
  - utilizing the computerized database to write the legislation in accordance with the set of rules;
  - utilizing the computerized database to design the service to administer the legislation in accordance with the set of rules, and
  - utilizing the computerized database to administer and/or evaluate the legislation in accordance with the set of rules;
- wherein the policy development, writing of legislation, service design, administration and/or evaluation are functionally integrated by the computerized database;
- wherein the rules are such as can be expressed in the general format "IF [premise], THEN [conclusion]";
- wherein the policy development includes at least one of

the following functions: policy analysis, development of policy options, public consultation, testing and refining policy;

wherein the writing of legislation includes at least one of the following functions: drafting legislation, testing and refining draft legislation, enactment of legislation;

wherein the service design includes at least one of the following functions: testing impact of final legislation, translation of legislation into operational policy, data requirements analysis, design of service delivery structures and systems, public education;

wherein the administration includes at least one of the following functions: public education, staff training, delivery of services, and

wherein the evaluation includes at least one of the following functions: design of policy impact measurement, measurement of policy impact.

- [c2] A rule based method of developing, implementing and administering legislation as claimed in claim 1 wherein the rules are written in a spoken language, the method further including:—  
converting the rules when written in the spoken language into a stylized or symbolic format or representation.

[c3] A rule based method of developing, implementing and administering legislation as claimed in claim 2, wherein the rules are written in a format or representation corresponding to acceptable legislation whereby the legislation is written in a format or representation corresponding to the set of declarative rules.

[c4] A rule based method of developing, implementing and administering legislation as claimed in claim 3, wherein the format or representation includes:–  
an alternative conclusion for reflecting the closed nature of legislative rules, and/or  
a source reference for referencing items in the database to legislative provisions, and/or  
a configuration syntax whereby the rules are written in the form of the legislative provisions.

[c5] A rule based computerized method of writing legislation, the method including:–  
developing a computerized database containing a set of declarative rules expressed in the general format "IF [premise], THEN [conclusion]" in accordance with which the legislation can be written, and  
utilizing the computerized database to write the legislation in accordance with the set of rules;  
wherein the rules are written in a format or representation corresponding to acceptable legislation whereby the

legislation is written in a format or representation corresponding to the set of declarative rules, and wherein the writing of legislation includes at least one of the following functions: drafting legislation, testing and refining draft legislation, enactment of legislation.

[c6] A rule based computerized method of writing legislation, wherein a computerized database is developed containing a set of declarative rules in accordance with which the legislation can be written, the rules being written in a format or representation corresponding to acceptable legislation whereby the legislation is written in a format or representation corresponding to the set of declarative rules, the computerized database being utilized to write the legislation in accordance with the set of rules; the method including:—  
developing a plurality of agreed legislative drafting conventions which constrain the drafting of legislation in accordance with a logical structure, and  
designing a computer model incorporating the agreed legislative drafting conventions.

[c7] A rule based computerized method of writing legislation, the method including:—  
developing a computerized database containing a set of declarative rules in accordance with which the legislation can be written, and

utilizing the computerized database to write the legislation in accordance with the set of rules;  
wherein the rules are written in a format or representation corresponding to acceptable legislation whereby the legislation is written in a format or representation corresponding to the set of declarative rules;  
wherein a plurality of agreed legislative drafting conventions constrain the drafting of legislation in accordance with a logical structure, and  
wherein the agreed legislative drafting conventions are incorporated in a computer model.

[c8] A rule based computerized method of writing legislation as claimed in claim 6, wherein the computer model is an XML schema.

[c9] A rule based computerized method of writing legislation as claimed in claim 7 and further including:–  
providing enhancements to the task of editing when drafting legislation whereby the use of the legislative drafting conventions is facilitated.

[c10] A rule based computerized method of writing legislation as claimed in claim 9 and further including:–  
creating a legislative parser to convert the text of the legislation to a form that can be checked against the computer model and to report any failures to the drafter

of the legislation.

- [c11] A rule based computerized method of writing legislation as claimed in claim 10 and further including:–  
creating facilities to import the parsed legislation into a pre-existing legislative rulebase technology, and to generate a rulebase.
- [c12] A rule based computerized method of writing legislation as claimed in claim 11 and further including:–  
creating a testing methodology whereby the drafter of the legislation can specify and test an appropriate range of cases against the legislation.
- [c13] A computer program embodied on a machine readable medium that operates a method as claimed in claim 1, for developing, implementing and administering legislation.
- [c14] A computer program embodied on a machine readable medium that operates a method as claimed in claim any one of claims 5 of writing legislation.
- [c15] A rule based computerized system for developing, implementing and administering legislation, the system including:–  
a computerized database containing a set of declarative rules in accordance with which the legislation can be de–

veloped, written and delivered, and  
program means for executing the set of rules to develop  
the policy for the legislation and/or to write the legisla-  
tion and/or to administer the legislation and/or to ad-  
minister the legislation and/or evaluate the legislation;  
wherein the policy development, writing of legislation,  
service design, administration and/or evaluation are  
functionally integrated by the computerized database.

[c16] A computer program embodied on a machine readable  
medium that provides a system as claimed in claim 15  
for developing, implementing and administering legisla-  
tion.

[c17] A rule based computerized system for writing legislation,  
the system including:-  
a computerized database containing a set of declarative  
rules in accordance with which the legislation can be  
written, and  
program means for executing the set of rules to write  
the legislation;  
wherein the rules are written in a format or representa-  
tion corresponding to acceptable legislation whereby the  
legislation is written in a format or representation corre-  
sponding to the set of declarative rules.

[c18] A rule based computerized system for writing legislation

as claimed in claim 17, wherein a plurality of agreed legislative drafting conventions constrain the drafting of legislation in accordance with a logical structure, and wherein the program means utilizes a computer model incorporating the agreed legislative drafting conventions.

[c19] A rule based computerized system for writing legislation as claimed in claim 18, wherein the computer model is an XML schema.

[c20] A computer program embodied on a machine readable medium that operates a system as claimed in claim 17, for writing legislation.